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MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS REVIEW

A MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER SERVING THE MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS UNITS OF IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI AND NEBRASKA

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Upcoming Events and Training

14th Annual National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (NVOAD) Conference. May 9-12, 2006 in Raleigh, NC. Sponsored by NVOAD. For more information, visit www.nvoad.org/annualconf1.php.

Mass Fatality Incidents for Medicolegal Professionals. May 15-19, 2006 in Ashburn, VA. Sponsored by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). For more information, call (571) 223-3907 or visit the NTSB website at www.nts.gov/academy/.

Public Health Emergency Law Conference. May 18-20, 2006 in St. Louis, MO. Sponsored by St. Louis University, Washington University and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. For more information and to register, see the [attached brochure](#).

5th UCLA Conference on Public Health and Disasters. May 21-24, 2006 in Long Beach, CA. Sponsored by the UCLA Center for Public Health and Disasters. For more information, visit www.cphd.ucla.edu/conferenceframe.htm.

Risk Communication Challenge: Proven Strategies for Effective Risk Communication. May 22-24, 2006 in Boston, MA. Sponsored by the Harvard School of Public Health. For more information, visit www.hsph.harvard.edu/ccpe/programs/RCC.shtml.

REGION VII



2006 Missouri Public Health/Bioterrorism Conference.

June 7-8, 2006 in Columbia, MO. Sponsored by the MO Department of Health and Senior Services Center for Emergency Response and Terrorism. The conference brochure is available at http://www.dhss.mo.gov/BT_Response/BTconferenceFlier06.pdf. Online registration is available at http://www.dhss.mo.gov/BT_Response/june_conf06.htm or by fax at (573) 522-8636.

2006 NACCHO Annual Conference. July 26-28, 2006 in San Antonio, TX. Sponsored by the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO). For more information, call (202) 783-5550 or visit the organization's website at: <http://www.naccho.org/conferences/NACCHOannual06/>.

Mid-America MRC Volunteers Participate in POD Exercise

On March 10, 2006, the Unified Government of Wyandotte County, KS held a functional exercise in which various aspects of the county public health department's emergency preparedness and response plan were evaluated, including the set up and functioning of an off-site Public Health Operations Center, a laboratory surge capacity blood drawing station, and the operation of a point of dispensing (POD) site for priority prophylaxis medications.

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A total of six Mid-America MRC volunteers assisted with the operation of the POD. The exercise resulted in many "lessons learned" and the institution of changes to the county public health department's emergency preparedness and response plan. According to Gay Hall, head of Emergency Preparedness and Public Health Information and Education for the Unified Government of Wyandotte County Public Health Department, the assistance of the Mid-America MRC volunteers was greatly appreciated!



Marty Maher (c) prepares for medication dispensing



Dr. Judy Tharp (l) goes over a procedural point to her co-worker

Updating Unit Profiles on the MRC Website

It is very important that MRC units keep their unit profiles on the national MRC website updated. As a registered MRC director and/or coordinator, you have permission to

change the information for your unit on the MRC website. You may change or update your unit information as often as you like. However, the MRC national program office requests that you update this information at least once every three months. It is important to update your unit profile on a regular basis. Your unit profile may be one of the first places a potential MRC volunteers goes to find information about joining your unit. If your unit profile does not contain any information, or if it contains old information, the individual may lose interest in becoming a part of your unit, and you may have lost a potential volunteer. In addition, current unit contact information is very important during emergencies, when local officials or the MRC national program office may need to contact you quickly.

To make adjustments to your unit's information, log-on to the MRC website (www.medicalreservecorps.gov) using the username and password you created at registration. Once logged in, you will be given the option in the left-hand frame of the website to "Edit MRC Unit." Click on this tab. The next page will include the fields for your MRC unit, which you have the ability to maintain and keep accurate. These fields include:

- ☐ Unit name
- ☐ Jurisdiction
- ☐ Sponsoring organization
- ☐ Point of contact's name
- ☐ Unit address
- ☐ Phone number
- ☐ E-mail address
- ☐ Website address
- ☐ Activation plan
- ☐ Emergency 24/7 contact information
- ☐ Brief unit description
- ☐ Current activities

After making any corrections, simply click the "Submit" button at the bottom of the page. This will save your updates and post them to the MRC website for all to reference. Please keep in mind that only the MRC national program office staff and you are able to see the emergency contact and activation process information. This information will not be shared with other users of the MRC website.

If you have any technical issues with this feature, please e-mail the Webmaster at MRCWebmaster@z-techcorp.com. For all other questions, feel free to contact the MRC national program office at (301) 443-4951 or MRCcontact@osophs.dhhs.gov. **2006 MRC**

National Leadership and Training Conference

MRC leaders from across the four-state region participated in the 2006 MRC National Leadership and Training Conference at the Hyatt Regency Hotel at Reunion in Dallas, TX on April 18–21, 2006. These Region VII MRC leaders joined participants from local, state and federal government agencies; nongovernmental organizations; business and industry; and other MRC units from around the country for this four-day knowledge-sharing conference. The conference agenda featured an array of topics in response to requests from both seasoned and newly developed MRC units. The conference was an ideal forum for MRC coordinators and volunteers from across the nation to meet and share best practices and strategies. This event was the fourth annual national MRC conference, and was the largest MRC conference yet, with well over 400 participants.



Region VII conference participants with the Surgeon General



Dr. David Bacon, Tom Morgan and Vickie Stevens



Tim Newman and CDR Rob Tosatto



Region VII breakout session participants

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